



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method of enhancing the production of nitric oxide in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to said subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, and a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative,

wherein said subject in need thereof is in need of a treatment selected from the group consisting of vasodilation, improvement of blood circulation, enhanced antiplatelet-aggregating activity, ~~antibacterial activity~~, acceleration of absorption at the digestive tract, renal function regulation, neurotransmitting activity, promotion of erection, promotion of learning, and enhancement of appetite.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition further comprises arginine.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein said arginine is selected from the group consisting of L-arginine and D-arginine, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition further comprises at least one medicine or cosmetic.

Claim 13 (Canceled):

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition is a cosmetic composition and the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein said cosmetic composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition and the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a form of a liquid, a granule, a powder, a capsule, a tablet, a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment..

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an oil, a fat, a wax, a hydrocarbon, an aliphatic acid, a lower alcohol, a higher

alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, an ester, a surfactant, and a water soluble polymer, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 16, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a dermal cell activator, an antiinflammatory agent, an active oxygen eraser, a moisturizing agent, a W absorber, an antiseptic, an antimold agent, and a perfume, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A method of enhancing the production nitric oxide synthase in a living body in a subject in need thereof, comprising administering to said subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising at least one compound selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, and a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative,

wherein said subject in need thereof is in need of a treatment selected from the group consisting of vasodilation, improvement of blood circulation, enhanced antiplatelet-aggregating activity, ~~antibacterial activity~~, acceleration of absorption at the digestive tract, renal function regulation, neurotransmitting activity, promotion of erection, promotion of learning, and enhancement of appetite.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises arginine.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said arginine is selected from the group consisting of L-arginine and D-arginine, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises at least one medicine or cosmetic.

Claim 24 (Canceled):

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition is a cosmetic composition and the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 25, wherein said cosmetic composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition and the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid, a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt, or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid derivative ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a form of a liquid, a granule, a powder, a capsule, a tablet, a lotion, an emulsion, a gel, a cream, and an ointment..

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an oil, a fat, a wax, a hydrocarbon, an aliphatic acid, a lower alcohol, a higher alcohol, a polyhydric alcohol, an ester, a surfactant, and a water soluble polymer, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 27, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of a dermal cell activator, an antiinflammatory agent, an active oxygen eraser, a moisturizing agent, a W absorber, an antiseptic, an antimold agent, and a perfume, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 31 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein said compound is pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid.

Claim 32 (New): The method according to claim 31, wherein said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid is in the L-form.

Claim 33 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein said compound is a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt.

Claim 34 (New): The method according to claim 33, wherein said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid in said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt is in the L-form.

Claim 35 (New): The method according to claim 33, wherein said salt in said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt is selected from the group consisting of arginine, lysine, a metal ion, and triethanolamine.

Claim 36 (New): The method according to claim 20, wherein said compound is pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid.

Claim 37 (New): The method according to claim 36, wherein said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid is in the L-form.

Claim 38 (New): The method according to claim 20, wherein said compound is a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt.

Claim 39 (New): The method according to claim 38, wherein said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid in said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt is in the L-form.

Claim 40 (New): The method according to claim 38, wherein said salt in said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt is selected from the group consisting of arginine, lysine, a metal ion, and triethanolamine.

Claim 41 (New): A method for improving or promoting blood circulation in the skin of a subject in need thereof comprising administering to said subject in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid or a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt.

Claim 42 (New): The method according to claim 41, wherein said compound is pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid.

Claim 43 (New): The method according to claim 42, wherein said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid is in the L-form.

Claim 44 (New): The method according to claim 41, wherein said compound is a pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt.

Claim 45 (New): The method according to claim 44, wherein said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid in said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt is in the L-form.

Claim 46 (New): The method according to claim 44, wherein said salt in said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt is selected from the group consisting of arginine, lysine, a metal ion, and triethanolamine.

Claim 47 (New): The method according to claim 41, wherein the content of said pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid or pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid salt ranges from 0.01 to 20% by weight.



SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-8, 13, and 23 were previously canceled.

Claims 9 and 20 have been amended.

Claims 31-47 have been added.

Support for the amendment of Claims 9 and 20 is found at pages 4-8 of the specification as originally filed, for example at page 6, lines 2-8. Support for new Claims 31-47 is provided by the specification as originally filed at pages 4-8, for example at page 4, lines 18-21, page 5, lines 1-4, page 6, lines 8-26, and page 7, line 23 to page 8, line 10.

No new matter has been added by the present amendments.